

2002 LEGISLATIVE SURVEY

Senator Dan McDonald

48th District Pre-Session Issues Survey



Dear friends,

With the holiday season upon us, we find ourselves bustling around purchasing last-minute holiday gifts and preparing for family gatherings. Along with the stress of battling the overcrowded malls and grocery stores, I know we're all struggling to fight the congestion of our region's major highways.

Throughout the 2001 legislative session, I worked with my Eastside Senate colleagues, Senator Bill Finkbeiner (R-Redmond) and Senator Jim Horn (R-Mercer Island), to craft a regional transportation proposal to address our problems without placing an unfair burden on the rest of the state.

As many of you might know, after more than two years of study, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation released its estimate that the total cost of new statewide highway projects necessary over the next 20 years will be \$42 billion. Of that, \$32 billion is concentrated in the central Puget Sound area, where roughly half the state's population lives.

While the Legislature struggled with the reality of meeting the entire state's transportation needs, we came to the startling realization that if we raised the state's gas tax by 12 cents per gallon, it would raise \$390 million annually. That's a lot of money! However, at that rate, it would take 83 years to fund the \$32 billion in transportation needs in the central Puget Sound — provided all revenue went to central Puget Sound and the rest of the state received nothing.

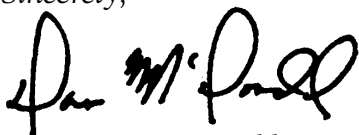
That's when we decided the best solution would be to develop a regional plan whereby regional citizens would decide which projects to fund and how to pay for them.

Unfortunately, after much frustration last summer, we left Olympia without a resolution of this problem. I plan to bring this issue back before the Legislature in the 2002 session, which is scheduled to start on Monday, January 14.

I'd like to hear your feedback on this and other important proposals on education and our economy coming before the 2002 Legislature. I hope you will take a few minutes from your busy holiday schedule to respond to my survey and mail it back to me in Olympia.

I always appreciate your visits, phone calls, and correspondence while I'm in Olympia. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



Sen. Dan McDonald
48th District Senator



Issues Survey



Survey Directions

Shade circles like
this: ●

Not like this: ⊗ ✓

Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey so I'll have a better sense of the issues affecting you and your families. When you have completed the survey, please fold so the mailing address is facing out, affix a first-class stamp and mail. Thank you very much for your time.

Transportation

1. What is your opinion of allowing a regional transportation board to identify projects and potential funding sources to be voted on by the people of that region?

- ☐ We are one Washington. Since the entire state benefits from the use of our transportation corridors, everyone should help pay.
- ☐ We have major transportation needs and if the only way to fund them is through a regional package, I support it.
- ☐ I would only support this concept if the people in the region were guaranteed a vote on specific projects.

2. What is the best way to relieve congestion in our area?

- ☐ Build more highway lanes.
- ☐ Add more transit capacity.
- ☐ Increase incentives for carpooling and taking the bus.
- ☐ All of the above.
- ☐ None of the above.

3. Would you support a gas tax increase to pay for statewide transportation improvements?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. If yes, how much of an increase would you support?

- ☐ 1-3 cents per gallon.
- ☐ 4-6 cents per gallon.
- ☐ 7-9 cents per gallon.
- ☐ 10-15 cents per gallon.

5. Which of the following would you also support to raise money for statewide transportation improvements?

- ☐ A 12-cent per-gallon surcharge on diesel.
- ☐ Increased weight fees for trucks.
- ☐ New weight fees for motor homes.
- ☐ An increase in the sales tax on car purchases.
- ☐ None of the above.

6. Which of the following best describes your opinion on the need for additional efficiencies in transportation?

- ☐ Our transportation system is very efficient and we need new taxes to complete important projects.
- ☐ Our transportation system could be more efficient but I still believe new taxes are needed to complete important projects.
- ☐ I would only support tax increases for transportation if the Legislature adopted more efficiencies to make sure the money is better spent.
- ☐ I oppose new taxes for transportation and believe the Legislature should adopt more efficiencies to make sure existing taxes are better spent.

7. If the Legislature was considering raising new taxes for a statewide transportation package, what is your opinion about putting it to a public vote?

- ☐ A public vote should be a requirement to raise new taxes.
- ☐ I'm undecided about whether a public vote should be a requirement to raise new taxes.
- ☐ No, we elect lawmakers to represent us and they should make these decisions.

8. How many miles per week do you normally drive?

- ☐ Up to 25 miles a week.
- ☐ Between 25 and 50 miles a week.
- ☐ Between 50 and 75 miles a week.
- ☐ Between 75 and 100 miles a week.
- ☐ More than 100 miles a week.



9. The latest proposal presented to the Legislature for funding statewide transportation included:

- A 9-cent-per-gallon gas tax increase
- An additional 3-cent-per-gallon increase for diesel (bringing the total for diesel to 12 cents per gallon)
- A 10 percent increase on the weight fees for trucks and motor homes
- A 1.5 percent increase in the sales tax on new and used vehicles.

The total highway improvement needs for our state over the next 20 years will cost \$42 billion. This plan would fund \$9 billion in transportation improvements over the next 10 years.

If this plan were placed on the ballot, how would you be inclined to vote?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Undecided

Education

10. Different ideas have been offered about how to improve K-12 education in our state. What are your education priorities? Please rank the following in order of importance: (first dot being most important)



- A. Improving teacher training
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- B. Reducing class sizes
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- C. Raising teacher salaries
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- D. Allowing school property tax levies to pass with a simple majority
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- E. Increasing academic requirements for graduation
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- F. Allowing charter schools
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
- G. Increasing school choice
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

11. Since the Legislature passed an education reform law in 1993, many public schools have implemented changes, including new tests to monitor improvement in the areas emphasized in the new law. How would you rate public schools as compared to 10 years ago?

- ☐ Better now
☐ Worse now
☐ About the same

12. How would you rate the performance of your local schools?

- ☐ They are doing a good job
☐ They are doing an average job
☐ They are doing a bad job

Economy

13. Has your family been impacted by the downturn in the economy?

- ☐ Yes, someone in our family has lost his or her job.
☐ Yes, my family's business is suffering.
☐ No, my family has not been directly impacted by the downturn in the economy.

14. Senate Republicans have been meeting with business people around the state to discuss how to make it easier to do business in our state. What are some things you would support to help businesses succeed, and thus bring more jobs to our state?

- ☐ Streamlining environmental, health, and labor regulations to help businesses comply more easily.
☐ Offering tax incentives to businesses that create family-wage jobs in our state.
☐ Providing assistance for businesspeople trying to start their own businesses in Washington.
☐ Improving our transportation system to make it easier for businesses to get their employees to work and to transport their goods to market.
☐ Improving education and training opportunities so businesses have a better-trained workforce.

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.



Place
First-Class
Postage
Here

Senator Dan McDonald
P.O. Box 40448
Olympia, WA 98504-0448



Keep in Touch!

Senator Dan McDonald

Address:

P.O. Box 40448
Olympia, WA 98504-0448
(Be sure to follow proper
mailing standards as the
legislative mailroom is in a
heightened state of alert.)

Phone:

(360) 786-7694

E-mail:

mcdonald_da@leg.wa.gov
(Be sure to include your
name, address and phone
number)

**Toll-free Legislative
Hotline:**

1-800-562-6000

Web Page:

<http://www.src.wa.gov/>

You may also schedule a visit to Olympia during the legislative session.

As always, I welcome your letters, phone calls and visits and look forward to your input during the 2002 legislative session.



Senator Dan McDonald
P.O. Box 40448
Olympia, WA 98504-0448



PRSRKT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympia WA
Permit #133